



**Testimony in Support of SB 753**  
**An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining**  
**Legislative Districts**

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Josh Guo. I am a resident of New Haven and am testifying to communicate my strong support for Connecticut SB 753, *An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining Legislative Districts*.

Legislative representation has been incredibly important to me, and as a young voter whose generation is driving the future of many political movements and waves, it is vital for me to feel that my individual voice, as well as the voice of my local community is represented. Prison gerrymandering in my voting district has made it so that my vote carries less weight, and, not only that, but it has also diminished the voices of the incarcerated people and their families in my community, who are members of my community no matter if they are in prison or not. When my district is represented, I want it to be represented FULLY and INCLUSIVELY, incarcerated people and all.

Stopping the practice of counting incarcerated people as residents of the districts in which their correctional facilities are located is imperative to increasing the representativeness of Connecticut's General Assembly. The counting of incarcerated persons, the vast majority of whom cannot vote, as members of the legislative districts in which their carceral facilities are located affords inappropriate electoral power to said districts. Moreover, incarcerated persons who can vote must do so in the districts where they lived prior to incarceration. The status quo inaccurately invests legislative authority and exacerbates racial inequities in government, given that Connecticut districts housing correctional facilities have a far higher proportion of white voters than compared to local incarcerated populations.

Another important factor to consider is that of racial justice. It's no secret that our current prison system disproportionately exploits largely black and brown populations. If we do not count prisoners, we subsequently disproportionately disenfranchise and suppress the votes of major portions of black and brown populations in our communities. This only amplifies the voting

powers of majority white legislative districts, as we count inmates in population metrics, but refuse to grant them a voice in our democracy.

Every Connecticutter deserves equal representation in the state legislature. I ask the committee to consider passing S.B. 753 to enshrine that same principle in law.

Sincerely,

Josh Guo  
New Haven, CT